



## San Francisco wants more parking spaces for car sharing companies

By Carolyn Tyler

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SAN FRANCISCO (KGO) -- When it comes to getting around San Francisco, the city's official motto is "transit first." Now the Municipal Transportation Agency is pushing to make that a reality by eliminating hundreds of parking spaces.

Parking is scarce in San Francisco. So what do you think about turning over 900 spaces on the street to car sharing? The MTA wants to start a pilot program this July.

MTA spokesperson Jay Primus says every shared vehicle on the road means fewer cars competing for the spaces in San Francisco neighborhoods.

There are 281,000 parking spots in San Francisco, but giving up 900 is controversial.

One of the three companies the city has selected for the two year pilot is Getaround, where car owners like Natasha Pecor rent their wheels to others.

"Rather than having a car sit dormant, it's being used by the entire community," Pecor said.

There's already been a tiny demonstration project funded by the nonprofit City CarShare, which will also be a partner in the pilot program. Twelve spaces are set aside for car sharing.

"Ultimately the more cars we get out there, the more we can provide people with the opportunity to get rid of a car or go car free and live in the city," City CarShare Rick Hutchinson said.

One goal is to expand car sharing to more far flung neighborhoods like the Bayview or the Outer Sunset.

There will be public hearings on all the proposed spaces at City Hall next month.

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